

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 OIC-04 AEC-11

RSR-01 /139 W

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P R 231840 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0201

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

JCS PRIORITY

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDELMC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T USNATO 2525

E. O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81

TAGS: MARR; NATO

SUBJECT: PROJECT FENDER

REF: A. USNATO 1187

B. STATE 45506 NOTAL

C. SHAPE ALO 43 NOTAL

D. TELCON ROME (DEVINE) - USNATO (HELMAN) MAY 22

E. TELCON ROME (BEAUDRY) - USNATO (MCAULIFFE) MAY 22

1. ON MORNING MAY 22 CHARGE CALLED ON ITALIAN PERMREP CATALANO AND SHOWED HIM DRAFT LETTER USNATO PROPOSES TO SEND TO SYG LUNS AND PERMREPS (TEXT BELOW) INFORMING THEM OF PLANS TO STATION US AIRBORNE BATTALION COMBAT TEAM AT VICENZA. CATALANO ASKED FOR COPY OF DRAFT, WHICH WAS PROVIDED.

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2. SUBSEQUENTLY, DCM BETTINI ASKED THAT USNATO DEFER SENDING LETTER TO LUNS AND PERMREPS UNTIL ITALIAN FONOFF HAD TIME TO CONSULT FURTHER WITH EMBASSY ROME. CHARGE AGREED.

3. SHORTLY THEREAFTER MISSION LEARNED (REF D) THAT ITALIAN FONOFF (DARIN) WAS CONCERNED THAT USNATO INTENDED NOTIFY NATO AUTHORITIES AND THAT GOI WISHES MODIFY TEXT.

4. USNATO AND USDELMC PLAN MAKE NO FURTHER MOVE (REF E) UNTIL ADVISED BY EMBASSY ROME THAT ITALIANS HAVE AGREED TO LETTER OR AN ACCEPTABLE REVISION THEREOF.

5. LETTER (CLASSIFIED NATO SECRET) FOLLOWS QUOTE:

" HIS EXCELLENCY
JOSEPH M. A. H. LUNS
SECRETARY GENERAL
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

DEAR JOSEPH:

YOU MAY RECALL THAT DURING HIS MAJOR INTERVENTION AT THE DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING LAST MAY, SECRETARY LAIRD MENTIONED SEVERAL ACTIONS IN PROGRESS TO " SHORTEN THE TAIL AND SHARPEN THE TEETH" OF U. S. FORCES IN EUROPE. THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO ENHANCE THE UTILIZATION OF OUR MOST EXPENSIVE RESOURCE, MANPOWER, BY REDUCING AND CONSOLIDATING HEADQUARTERS AND IMPROVING CONVENTIONAL COMBAT CAPABILITY. DETAILS WERE PROVIDED IN THE U. S. RESPONSE TO THE 1972 DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE.

ONE OF THE ACTIONS SPECIFICALLY CITED BY SECRETARY LAIRD WAS THE ACTIVATION OF AN AIRBORNE BATTALION COMBAT TEAM OF ABOUT 1,100 MEN. I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT MY AUTHORITIES ARE NOW PROCEEDING WITH THIS ACTIVATION.

DISCUSSIONS TO DATE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY AND MY GOVERNMENT HAVE RESULTED IN AGREEMENT TO STATION THE NEW COMBAT TEAM AT VICENZA. IN COMPLIANCE WITH GENERAL GOODPASTER' S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL MOBILE FORCES, THE UNITED STATES WILL
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EARMARK THE UNIT FOR ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE. I UNDERSTAND THAT GENERAL GOODPASTER WILL FURTHER EARMARK THE UNIT SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ACE MOBILE FORCE.

BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBLE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SENSITIVITY TO A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS ACTION, THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES, AS WELL AS MY OWN, HAVE REQUESTED THAT THERE BE NO COMMUNIQUE OR OTHER ASSOCIATED PUBLICITY.

I AM SENDING COPIES OF THIS LETTER TO OUR COLLEAGUES ON THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE. GENERAL MILTON WILL INFORM HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. SINCERELY,
DONALD RUMSFELD

END QUOTE

6. MISSION KEENLY AWARE ITALIAN SENSITIVITIES; AND IT
WAS FOR THIS VERY REASON THAT WE CONSULTED WITH AMBASSADOR
CATALANO BEFORE NOTIFYING SYG LUNS OR OTHER ALLIES.
RUMSFELD

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NMAFVVZCZ
<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Disposition Authority: boyleja
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